

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A locking mechanism for a central vacuum system with a debris receptacle and a canister, the locking mechanism comprising:

~~a twist-lock latch configured to receive a handle of a debris receptacle; and~~

a vertical gasket to facilitate an air-tight seal between ~~[[the]]~~ a debris receptacle and a canister of ~~[[the]]~~ a central vacuum system; and

a twist-lock latch configured to guide a handle portion of the debris receptacle to a lock position between the twist-lock latch and the vertical gasket.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the twist-lock latch comprises a contoured ramp configured to guide the handle portion of the debris receptacle ~~into place~~ to the lock position.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the twist-lock latch comprises a stop detent to fully engage the debris receptacle into ~~[[a]]~~ the lock position.

Claims 4-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the vertical gasket includes a vertical sealing area and a plurality of horizontal ribs to facilitate reduced friction and drag during engagement and disengagement of the locking mechanism.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the vertical gasket includes a bead ~~roll, the diameter of the bead roll corresponding with~~ roll configured to be received by a groove formed in an exterior surface of the canister.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A twist-lock latch for use in a locking mechanism of a central vacuum system including a canister and a debris receptacle with a handle portion, the twist-lock latch comprising:

a first shelf portion to provide a resting area for a handle portion of a debris receptacle when the debris receptacle is ~~locked into place in a lock position; and~~

an open lateral end portion configured to laterally receive the handle portion of the debris receptacle from a position outside a canister; and

a stop detent ~~that facilitates~~ configured to facilitate proper engagement of the debris receptacle handle portion in the lock position.

Claim 10 (original): The twist-lock latch of claim 9, further comprising a second shelf portion to provide a clearance area for a gasket.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The twist-lock latch of claim 9, further comprising a contoured ramp configured to guide ~~[[a]] the handle portion of [[a]] the~~ debris receptacle into place.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The twist-lock latch of claim 9, ~~further comprising at least one aperture for coupling wherein~~ the twist-lock latch is configured to be coupled to a canister portion of the central vacuum system via a fastener.

Claim 13 (original): The twist-lock latch of claim 9 having no moving parts.

Claims 14-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): A locking mechanism for a central vacuum system including a debris receptacle with a handle portion, the locking mechanism comprising:

a vertical gasket coupled to a canister; and

at least one twist-lock latch coupled to [[a]] the canister[; and]], wherein the twist-lock latch is configured to locate a handle portion of a debris receptacle in a lock position between the twist-lock latch and the vertical gasket.

a vertical gasket coupled to the canister.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The locking mechanism of claim 19, wherein the at least one twist-lock latch comprises two twist-lock latches ~~are~~ coupled to the canister at opposing sides of the canister.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A locking mechanism for a central vacuum system with a debris receptacle and a canister, the locking mechanism comprising:

scaling means for facilitating an air-tight seal between a debris receptacle and a canister;
and

latching means for securing [[a]] the debris receptacle to [[a]] the canister, the latching means including a twist-lock latch configured to guide a handle portion of the debris receptacle to a lock position between the twist-lock latch and the sealing means[; and]]

~~scaling means for facilitating an air-tight seal between the debris receptacle and the canister.~~

Claim 22 (new): The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the twist-lock latch further includes an open lateral end portion configured to laterally receive the handle portion of the debris receptacle.

Claim 23 (new): A central vacuum system including the locking mechanism of claim 1, the central vacuum system including:

a debris receptacle with a handle portion;

a canister, wherein the vertical gasket is coupled to the canister and the twist-lock latch is coupled to the canister.

Claim 24 (new): The central vacuum system of claim 23, wherein the twist-lock latch comprises a contoured ramp configured to guide the handle portion of the debris receptacle to the lock position.

Claim 25 (new): The central vacuum system of claim 23, wherein the canister includes an exterior surface and a groove formed in the exterior surface, the vertical gasket includes a bead roll received by the groove, and the twist-lock latch includes a first shelf portion to provide a resting area for the handle portion of the debris receptacle when the debris receptacle is in the lock position and a second shelf portion providing a clearance area for the bead roll of the vertical gasket.

Claim 26 (new): A locking mechanism for a central vacuum system with a debris receptacle and a canister, the locking mechanism comprising:

- a vertical gasket to facilitate an air-tight seal between a debris receptacle and a canister of a central vacuum system; and

- a twist-lock latch including a contoured ramp configured to guide a handle portion of the debris receptacle to a lock position between the twist-lock latch and the vertical gasket, the twist-lock latch including an open lateral end portion configured to laterally receive the handle portion of the debris receptacle.

Claim 27 (new): The locking mechanism of claim 26, wherein the twist-lock latch comprises a stop detent to fully engage the debris receptacle into the lock position.

Claim 28 (new): A central vacuum system including the locking mechanism of claim 26, the central vacuum system including:

- a debris receptacle with a handle portion;

a canister, wherein the vertical gasket is coupled to the canister and the twist-lock latch is coupled to the canister.

Claim 29 (new): The central vacuum system of claim 28, wherein the canister includes an exterior surface and a groove formed in the exterior surface, the vertical gasket includes a bead roll received by the groove, and the twist-lock latch includes a first shelf portion to provide a resting area for the handle portion of the debris receptacle when the debris receptacle is in the lock position and a second shelf portion providing a clearance area for the bead roll of the vertical gasket.